

***ANDOVER CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING – JULY 15, 2014
MINUTES***

The Workshop Meeting of the Andover City Council was called to order by Acting Mayor Sheri Bukkila, July 15, 2014, 6:00 p.m., at the Andover City Hall, 1685 Crosstown Boulevard NW, Andover, Minnesota.

Councilmembers present: Mike Knight, Sheri Bukkila, Julie Trude, and Tony Howard
Councilmember absent: Mike Gamache
Also present: City Administrator, Jim Dickinson
City Engineer/Public Works Director, David Berkowitz
Others

BUNKER LAKE BOULEVARD NW FROM CRANE STREET NW TO JEFFERSON STREET/11-25

Mr. Berkowitz explained Anoka County Highway Department representatives will provide an update to the City Council regarding the proposed improvements to Bunker Lake Boulevard from Crane Street to Jefferson Street.

Curt Kobilarcsik and Mario Naji from Anoka County were at the meeting and presented the proposed improvements to the Council.

Mr. Kobilarcsik stated they submitted for Federal funds in 2011 for this project and would like to start construction on the project in 2015. He reviewed the current plans with the Council.

Councilmember Trude wondered if it was possible to add a sidewalk within the project along the right-of-way by Crane Street to accommodate walkers. Mr. Kobilarcsik recorded the suggestion from the Council and indicated they would work with Mr. Berkowitz on this.

Councilmember Trude stated that with all of the new vehicles weaving through the neighborhood the County will be hearing from residents at the next public meeting.

Mayor Gamache arrived at 6:09 p.m.

Councilmember Knight stated one of the things that concerns him is in the future there may be a huge train problem along the tracks. He wondered if anyone was looking at the future of this road relative to increase train traffic. Mr. Kobilarcsik stated they have looked at this and the possibility of an overpass but there is not any money available to do an overpass at this time.

Mr. Berkowitz reviewed his discussion with the railroad that he had, he indicated that more shorter trains are using the track in extreme cold weather conditions which may increase the number of trains on average per day. Also there has been an increase in railroad traffic in general. Councilmember Trude wondered if they could get a Federal grant for an overpass over the tracks on Bunker Lake Boulevard. Mr. Kobilarcsik did not think there was an opportunity for that with this current project.

Mayor Gamache asked if the fifteen foot center median is needed. Mr. Kobilarcsik stated it is because the railroad track arms will be coming from the middle and outside so the railroad needs those for the arms. Councilmember Trude wondered if there were some changes to the project that could save some money within the project in order to provide funding to create an overpass. Mr. Kobilarcsik indicated he would like to plan for an overpass but they do not have any extra money to create one and if anything is removed from the project such as medians that would not create enough money for an overpass.

Mr. Kobilarcsik stated they are currently going through a study to see if sound walls will be required on the project. The impacted residents would have a chance to vote on if they want a sound wall or not. This would impact the residents' backyards.

Mayor Gamache asked if there will be full traffic signals at Sycamore Street. Mr. Kobilarcsik stated there will not be any traffic signals, but there will continue to be full access.

Mr. Berkowitz indicated the intersection of Prairie Road and Bunker Lake Boulevard will be moved slightly to create more of a ninety degree bend. He asked if the Council would like the trail on the west side moved to where the road is going to be installed, direction should be given to the County at this time. The direction from the Council was to remove the existing trail on the west side and place the new trail next to the road.

Councilmember Bukkila asked if they could put flashing yellow lights to indicate when the signal is going to change so they can slow down. Mr. Berkowitz stated the sight lines for the signal will be improved with the new layout and a flashing signal should not be needed.

The Council wondered why the trail along Bunker Lake Boulevard after Prairie Road needed to be moved closer to the road, they wondered why it could not be in the same place with the pond closer to the road. Mr. Naji stated where the proposed pond is going to be the lowest part of the area and a pond would not work well closer to the roadway.

Councilmember Trude was not happy with having to remove groves of oak trees along Bunker Lake Boulevard between Prairie Road and the city limits, and the city park impacts in order to move the road and trail to create a pond.

Mr. Kobilarcsik reviewed the rest of the road improvements with the Council going into Ham Lake and east to Hwy 65.

Mayor Gamache asked how many trees can be replaced that are along the road. Mr. Kobilarcsik stated some of the trees being removed will be for safety reasons.

UPDATE ON RUSSELL STACK ADDITION (YAKIMA STREET/166TH LANE DRAINAGE ISSUE)/14-33

Mr. Berkowitz explained this item is to update the City Council on the drainage issue on Yakima Street and 166th Lane and discuss City project participation. He noted he met with the farmers in the area and they do not want to participate in the drainage issue resolutions.

Mr. Berkowitz stated he met with the residents in the area about putting French drains in and the residents would like to try that. The issue might be a perched water table but they are not sure that is the problem. He did not know if this is the problem but the residents want to try a French drain and if that does not work they would like to install a permanent sump pump for drainage in the area. If it is a purged water table they have the option of installing a sand point in to bust through the table.

Councilmember Trude thought the farmers may be responsible because they may have changed the land and drainage may be draining off their property. She thought they should check into the easement by necessity.

2014 GENERAL FUND BUDGET PROGRESS REPORT – THROUGH JUNE 2014

Mr. Dickinson stated the reports speak for themselves, he asked if there were any questions, there were none.

JUNE 2014 CITY INVESTMENTS REVIEW

Mr. Dickinson stated the reports speak for themselves, he asked if there were any questions, there were none.

OTHER TOPICS

There was none.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Bukkila, Seconded by Trude, to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Osbeck, Recording Secretary